

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PONTA 00019 212213Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 FEA-01 DHA-02 /103 W
-----212216Z 003152 /70

R 211900Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1599
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL OPORTO
COMUSFORAZ
USCINCEUR
CINCLANT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PONTA DELGADA 019

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: GASOLINE PRICE INCREASE SPARKS PROTEST

1. HUNDREDS OF DEMONSTRATORS CONVERGED ON THE MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC'S RESIDENCE THE NIGHT OF JAN. 20 PROTESTING AN INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF GASOLINE WHICH WENT INTO EFFECT AT MIDNIGHT THROUGHOUT PORTUGAL. THE DEMONSTRATORS BROKE WINDOWS AND A DOOR, SHOUTED SEPARATIST SLOGANS AND HOISTED AN AZOREAN FLAG. ACCORDING TO THE WIFE OF THE MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC, THE DEMONSTRATORS DID NOT ENTER THE RESIDENCE ONLY BECAUSE OF THE BARRICADE ERECTED BY THE OCCUPANTS. THE MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC, GEN. FIGUEIREDO, SPOKE BRIEFLY TO THE CROWD FROM A VERANDA AND THE CROWD WAS THEN DISPERSED BY THE POLICE WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT.

2. ACCORDING TO A NEWS REPORT, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, MOTA AMARAL, HAS STATED THAT THE GASOLINE PRICE

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INCREASE WILL NOT GO INTO EFFECT IN THE AZORES UNTIL APPROVED BY THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT. ON JAN. 21, GAS STATIONS IN PONTA DELGADA WERE PUMPING AT THE OLD PRICES.

3. COMMENT: UNPOPULAR ACTIONS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFTEN PROVOKE REACTIONS IN THE AZORES PARTICULARLY IN PONTA DELGADA. MOTA AMARAL'S STATEMENT THAT PRICES WILL NOT

GO UP FOR THE TIME BEING HAS CALMED THE SITUATION. IT IS
UNCLEAR, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE
TO KEEP THE PRICES DOWN FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME SINCE, ACCORDING
TO A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, THE RAISE IS
NOTHING MORE THAN PASSING ON TO THE CONSUMER RECENT WORLD
PRICE HIKES. MOTA AMARAL'S STATEMENT WAS CONSISTENT WITH
OTHER REGIONAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS, E.G., AFTER SEVERAL
NEGOTIATING SESSIONS, THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT STILL REFUSES
TO ACCEPT LISBON'S PROPOSALS TO INCREASE FREIGHT RATES BETWEEN
THE CONTINENT AND THE AZORES.
PFEIFLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, GASOLINE, PRICE INDEXES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: PONTA DELGADA
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